State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have been requested to create additional storage capacity to the extent of 89.77 lakh Mts. under the 7 year guarantee scheme in the major procuring States. This additional capacity is under creation since 2000-01. The Government takes into account various factors such as stock position, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement for Central Pool, requirement for PDS/other Welfare Scheme, Open Market Prices, etc. to decide import or export of foodgrains on Government Account.

Changes in PDS

2255. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering drastic changes with a view to put in place an efficient and prompt delivery system to curb deficiencies persisting in the existing Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame by when the new system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) TPDS with it's focus on the poor was introduced in 1997 and currently envisages issue of 35 kg foodgrains per family per month. In a system of such vast magnitude involving multiple agencies deficiencies in its implementation can not be ruled out.

With a view to maintaining supplies, securing availability and distribution of Essential Commodities under the PDS, the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31.8.2001.

Shortage of FCI Godowns

2256. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of FCI

godowns, some State Governments are facing problems to store foodgrains supplied by the Centre under various Centrally sponsored schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) To facilitate lifting of foodgrains by State Governments, FCI creates storage capacity at strategic locations for distribution of foodgrains.

As on 31.10.2002, the FCI has a total storage capacity of 35.50 million tonnes (owned and hired/Covered and CAP) against the total stocks of 23.81 million tonnes with the utilization of 67%.

FCI has a network of 2178 depots (as on 30.6.2002) spread all over the country from where foodgrains are stored/lifted by the State Governments/agencies under Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes.

Stock of foodgrains with FCI

2257. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India as on date;

(b) the quantity of wheat and rice lying open for want of godowns; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to dispose of surplus wheat and rice lying in open?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 31st October, 2002 was 205.09 lakh tonnes and 330.59 lakh tonnes respectively.